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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/676,774

10/01/2003

Neal A. Starks

60,244-007

7916

26096

7590

10/31/2006

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HAU VAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3618

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,774

Applicant(s)

STARKS, NEAL A.

Examiner

Hau V. Phan

Art Unit

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-15 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment

1. The amendment filed on 9/21/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title; if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 3-9, 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5,988,663) in view of Wu (6,612,598).**

Starks in figures 1-5, discloses a bicycle coupling device or bicycle accessory device and method of removably attaching comprising a bracket (32), which is adapted to be mounted to a bicycle. The bracket includes a mount (34). Starks also discloses a support (37) removable connected to the mount and a first quick release (42) connection between the support and the mount. The first quick release connection includes a first resilient member. Starks fails to disclose a second quick release (86) connection between the support and the bicycle accessory.

Wu in figure 2, teach a rear steering device comprising a support (4) having first and second quick release connections (not number). It would have been obvious to one

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of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks with the support having first and second quick release connection as taught by Wu in order to allow easy assembly without increasing the cost of manufacturing.

Regarding claim 3, Starks discloses the mount that is tubular.

Regarding claim 4, Starks discloses the bracket including a first portion having a pair of fingers (35) that receive a frame of the bicycle and an opposing second portion having an aperture to receive an attachment mechanism (36) that secured the bracket to the bicycle.

Regarding claim 5, Starks discloses the support including a lower portion having a first pin and the first resilient member that biases the first pin outwardly and the bracket including a first hole and the first resilient member biases the first pin in the first hole when the support is attached to the bracket to form the first quick release connection and attach the support to the bracket.

Regarding claim 6, Starks discloses the first pin, which is pressed inwardly to remove the support from the bracket.

Regarding claim 7, Wu teaches the support including an upper portion having a second pin and a second resilient member (not number) that biases the second pin outwardly and a bicycle accessory including a second hole and the second resilient member biases the second pin in the second hole when the support is attached to the bicycle accessory to form the second quick release connection and attach the bicycle accessory to the support.

Regarding claim 8, Wu teaches the second pin, which is pressed inwardly to remove the bicycle accessory from the support.

Regarding claim 9, Starks in view of Wu disclose the first quick release connection, which is aligned with the second quick release connection.

Regarding claim 14, Starks discloses the removable accessory, which is a handle.

Regarding claims 19-20, Starks discloses the mount, which is substantially perpendicular to a central axis of the bicycle.

4. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5,988,663) in view of Wu (6,612,598) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kuo (6,398,247).

The combination of Starks and Wu disclose the support, but fails to show a storage rack.

Kuo in figures 2-4, teaches a bicycle accessory comprising a pin (not number, figure 4), a support (22) including a removably accessory (20). The removably accessory is a storage rack including a mount (251), which is removably and pivotally attached to the support, wherein the storage rack including a first hole and the mount including a second hole. The pin is inserted into the first hole when aligned with the second hole to prevent pivoting of the storage rack relative to the mount. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in view of Wu with the bicycle accessory having a storage rack as taught by Kuo in order to carry a user belonging.

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5. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5,988,663) in view of Wu (6,612,598) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kirvutza (4,157,075).

The combination of Starks and Wu disclose the support having the removable accessory, but fails to show a flag.

Kirvutza in figure 1, teaches a bicycle signal device comprising a removable flag (66). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in view of Wu with the bicycle accessory having a flag as taught by Kirvutza in order to provide a safety and for amusement or attraction purpose.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5,988,663) in view of Wu (6,612,598) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kahmann (6,443,472).

The combination of Starks and Wu disclose the removable accessory, but fail to show in wheeled trailing device.

Kahmann in figure 8, teaches a bicycle towing bracket comprising a trailing device that is attached to the bicycle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in view of Wu with the bicycle accessory having a trailing device as taught by Kahmann in order to attach a trailer to the bicycle.

7. **Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks (5,988,663) in view of Wu (6,612,598) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Long (6,149,179).**

The combination of Starks and Wu disclose the removable accessory, but fail to show in kickstand.

Long in figures 1 and 4, teaches a bicycle comprising a kickstand (10) that is attached to the bicycle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in view of Wu with the bicycle accessory having a flag as taught by Kirvutza in order to assist the bicycle in standing position when the bicycle is not use.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-15, 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau V. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-6696. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on 571-272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hau V Phan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3618

Hau Phan
10/28/06